

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-135 are pending in this application.

The Examiner required applicants to elect for prosecution one of the following allegedly patentable distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, referring to FIG. 5, and claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121; and

Species II, referring to FIG. 6, and claims 32-45, 77-90, and 122-135.

Applicants' Reply to the Office Action

Applicants elect species I without traverse, referring to FIG. 5 and claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121, for initial substantive examination.

Claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121, however, may read upon additional figures and portions of the specification not embodied in FIGS. 5. For this reason, claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121 should be construed in the context of the entire specification as filed -- not just the elected figure.

Applicants' election of FIG. 5 was made to aid the Examiner in conducting a reasonable search -- not to limit the scope of claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121 to the embodiment

illustrated in FIG. 5. Therefore, applicants will continue to prosecute claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121 in light of the entire specification.

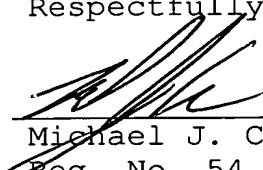
Applicants have elected a single species, Species I, and have elected claims that correspond with that species, claims 1-31, 46-76, and 91-121, thereby meeting the requirement of MPEP § 809.

Applicants understand that if a generic claim is allowed, a reasonable number of the non-elected species, and the claims that read thereon, will be rejoined to the application.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected for examination a single species of the claimed invention as required by the Examiner. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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